

Application No.: 09/675,851
Amdt dated: August 13, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 30, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 12, with the following paragraph:

--Movement of the jaws 18 from the normally opened state to the closed state is accomplished by operation of the handle assembly 16 which, in a preferred embodiment, has a scissors configuration. The handle assembly 16 has a distal end 22 terminating in a pair of paws 23 and a proximal end 25 terminating in a pair of finger rings ~~[[25]]~~ 27. The paws 23 extend outwardly of the jaws 18 and are operable by closing the finger rings ~~[[25]]~~ 27 to move the jaws 18 from the normally opened position to the closed position.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 8, with the following paragraph:

--In this embodiment, the handle 30 has a flange 58 which extends inwardly of the leg 45 and the handle bar 50. The flange 58 includes a slot 61 and a surface 63 which faces the cartridge 12. Similarly, the handle 32 includes a flange 65 which extends inwardly of the leg 47 and the handle bar 52. The flange 65 includes a slot 67 and a surface 70 which faces away from the cartridge 12. With the flange 65 positioned between the cartridge 12 and the flange 58, the surfaces 63 and ~~[[65]]~~ 70 can be maintained in sliding engagement to provide increased stability for the handle assembly 16 in a manner discussed in greater detail below.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 16, with the following paragraph:

--The configuration of the button or snap 72 is illustrated in a preferred embodiment shown in the enlarged views of Figures 8 and 9. In this embodiment, the snap 72 is movable on the cartridge 12 which includes a bottom plate 92 and cover 94. The operating pin 74 of the cartridge 12 is moveable in a slot ~~[[96]]~~ 97 which extends through the bottom plate 92 and provides the pin 74 with access into the cover 94.--

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 18, line 12, with the following paragraphs:

--Since the position of the operating pin 74a relative to the jaws 18a may vary with the different clip sizes, a dedicated group of handle assemblies ~~[[143]]~~ 143a may be desired for each of the clips and its associated cartridge. Such a group is designated by the reference numeral ~~[[143]]~~ 143a in Figure 18. In this view it will be noted that the small clip 14a can be housed in a small cartridge 12a having a length such as six inches. In order to accommodate this size of clip 14a and cartridge 12a, the dedicated handle assemblies may include a short handle assembly 16a, a medium handle assembly 16a', and a long handle assembly 16a".

Since the short handle assembly 16a makes it easier to manipulate the cartridge 12a, and since the long handle assembly 16a" makes it easier to reach into remote locations, the group of dedicated handle assemblies ~~[[143]]~~ 143a will enable a user to

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select a handle assembly which is sufficiently long to reach the operative site but sufficiently short to maximize manipulation of the cartridge 12a. In a preferred group of the dedicated handle assemblies ~~[[143]]~~ 143a, the short handle assembly 16a has the length of about six inches, the medium handle assembly 16a" has a length of about 8 inches, and the long handle assembly 16a" has the length of about 11 inches.--